

For the 36 vacancies categorized as “judicial emergencies,” there are only 8 nominees. So I just want to set the record straight before the vote for these nominees because I get tired of these crocodile tears being shed. Particularly, I am sick of hearing about us not moving on judges when three-fourths of them we don’t even have the nominees here yet. So quit crying.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I share the perplexed attitude of the Senator from Iowa about our friends’ concern about nominations. The President has even talked about it. I have gone back and looked at the record. There was a Washington Post article 3 weeks ago. I gave a copy of it to the President. This is what it said: On Cabinet nominations, this Senate has considered President Obama’s Cabinet nominations more rapidly than they did the last three Presidents. That is Cabinet nominations. Never in the history of the Senate has the Senate denied a Cabinet nomination by filibuster, with the exception of the Democrats blocking John Bolton in the George W. Bush administration. So the President is treated better on Cabinet nominations.

Evidence from the Congressional Research Service says President Obama’s circuit judges in his first term were considered more rapidly than President George W. Bush’s circuit judges. Senator GRASSLEY just pointed out that in the second term of President Bush he had 1 judge confirmed by this time; President Obama has 13.

On district judges, according to the Congressional Research Service, during the first term of President Obama his district judges were considered a little more slowly than President George W. Bush’s, but the Senate changed the rules earlier this year to cut down the postcloture debate time to make it easier to bring judges to the floor and get them through more rapidly. Perhaps that is why the score is 13 to 1, with Obama getting 13 judges and Bush getting 1 in the same period of time in the second term.

I do not know where this is coming from. In addition, we have never blocked a district judge by filibuster—neither party in the history of the Senate. In the circuit judges we never blocked a circuit judge until George W. Bush made some nominations about the time I came to the Senate 10 years ago, and the Democrats started it. They caused Miguel Estrada to be blocked and a number of others, and they brought up cloture motions time after time and we had a gang of 6, 8, 10 or 14 who slowed it all down. But still the score is 5 to 2; 5 Republican judges blocked for confirmation by the Democrats under President Bush, and 2 by Republicans with President Obama.

We worked pretty hard for the President to confirm his nominations. We had two sets of rules changes, and we

have a number of expedited nominations which come now to the desk. We had about 170 nominations that have been completely removed from Senate confirmation. I would think the Obama administration would be thanking the Senate for its work to make it easier for any President to get confirmations. In any event, when we are talking about Cabinet Members, President Obama is being better treated than the last three Presidents. When we are talking about circuit judges he is better treated than George W. Bush. When we are talking about district judges he is treated a little worse in his first term than George W. Bush, but we changed the rules to speed up district judges. The score in the second term, as I have said twice now, is Obama 13, Bush 1—Obama way ahead.

I like to see confirmations move ahead. I hope I do not hear this much more, when the record shows that in fact it is a manufactured crisis.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Analisa Torres, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Watson nomination.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Derrick Kahala Watson, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. COWAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Barrasso	Bennet
Ayotte	Baucus	Blumenthal
Baldwin	Beigich	Blunt

Boozman	Heinrich	Paul
Brown	Heitkamp	Portman
Cantwell	Heller	Pryor
Cardin	Hirono	Reed
Carper	Hoeven	Reid
Casey	Inhofe	Risch
Chambliss	Isakson	Roberts
Coats	Johanns	Rockefeller
Coburn	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Collins	Kaine	Schatz
Coons	King	Schumer
Corker	Kirk	Scott
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sessions
Crapo	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cruz	Leahy	Shelby
Donnelly	Lee	Stabenow
Durbin	Levin	Tester
Enzi	Manchin	Thune
Feinstein	McCain	Toomey
Fischer	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Flake	McConnell	Udall (NM)
Franken	Menendez	Vitter
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warner
Graham	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Grassley	Murkowski	Wicker
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden
Harkin	Murray	
Hatch	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—8

Boxer	Cowan	Moran
Burr	Lautenberg	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. COWAN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent from votes during today’s session. Had I been present for the votes on amendments relating to S. 649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013 I would have opposed the Barrasso amendment, S. Amdt. 717, and I would have supported the Harkin-Alexander amendment, S. Amdt. 730. Also, I would have supported the nomination of Analisa Torres to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.●

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

#### GUN SAFETY

Mr. REID. Madam President, this bears repeating: We knew all along that efforts to pass stronger background checks and keep guns out of the hands of criminals wouldn’t be easy, and it hasn’t been. But keeping America’s streets safe from gun violence is worth the effort.

Yesterday the families of gun violence victims watched as Republicans defeated a commonsense proposal to expand background checks. It is supported by 90 percent of the American people. It is not some hocus-pocus. What it says is that if a person is a criminal, that person shouldn’t be able to buy a gun. It says that if a person has severe mental issues, that person shouldn’t be able to buy a gun. That is all it said.

Yesterday the families of gun violence victims watched, but despite the